



IN MEMORIAM
WILLIAM F. "BILL" MAHLER
1930–2013

The following obituary is reprinted with the family's permission. As Dr. Mahler was especially important to this journal and its parent organization, a special feature by the editors will appear in the next issue. If you would like to contribute a story, a remembrance, an experience, or a fond memory about Wm. F. Mahler, please send to barney@brit.org by 1 October 2013.

William F. "Bill" Mahler, of Iowa Park, Texas, passed away Tuesday, July 2, 2013, at his home. Bill was born August 30, 1930, to Herman & Magdalena (Maier) Mahler on Aldine Street in Iowa Park. He graduated from W.F. George High School in 1947, and attended Hardin College in Wichita Falls, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from Sept. 1950 to Sept. 1953 with the 14th Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) at Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Carson, Colorado; and Friedberg, Germany. In 1954, he returned to college and received his Bachelor's degree in 1955 in Agriculture from Midwestern State University. During this time, he met Wanda Lorene Lindesmith, of Addington, Oklahoma, and they married in January of 1955 in Burkburnett, Texas.

Bill earned his Master's degree in Botany/Plant Taxonomy in 1960 from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. For the next six years, he served as an assistant professor at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, where he established the HSU Herbarium. He went on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1968. After graduation, he moved his family to Richardson, Texas, where he joined the faculty of Southern Methodist University in Dallas and assumed directorship of the SMU Herbarium. He became editor and publisher of *Sida, Contributions to Botany* in 1971 and co-editor of *Sida, Botanical Miscellany*. He authored and co-authored many plant taxonomy books & articles, his most popular being the *Shinners' Manual of the North Central Texas Flora* (1984, 1988). For his work, Bill received the Dono-

van Stewart Correll Memorial Award for scientific writing on the native flora of Texas in 1991, from the Native Plant Society of Texas. The Native Plant Society of Texas again honored him in 1995 with the Charles Leonard Weddle Memorial Award in recognition of a lifetime of service and devotion to Texas native plants. Bill was a member of many conservation organizations, including the Texas Organization for Endangered Species. He also assisted the National Poison Control Center in identifying mushrooms involved in poisonings.

In his dedication to preserve the SMU Herbarium collection, one of the largest herbarium collections in the world, he worked with Ed Bass [and others] of Fort Worth, Texas, to establish the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT). After an early retirement from SMU, he served as the first director of BRIT from 1987–1992. In 1992, Bill & Lorene officially retired to his home town of Iowa Park, Texas, where he was an active member of the First United Methodist Church. In his retirement years, Bill enjoyed researching family genealogy and producing family albums with the computer, renewing friendships from childhood and his military days, and being with his family.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Herman, Jr. and John Edward. He is survived by his wife, Lorene, of 58 years; his daughter, Brenda Cornitius and husband, Tim, of Dodge City, Kansas; his son, Shawn and wife, Carol, of Iowa Park; and five grandchildren: Matthew Cornitius and wife, Victoria, of Dodge City, Kansas; Rebecca Reed and husband, James, of Ft. Riley, Kansas, and Hayley, Jacob, and Nicholas Mahler of Iowa Park.



WILLIAM E. BULL MAHLER
 1924-2013